

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 01813 021002Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 IO-13 /083 W
-----002227 030015Z /41
R 020849Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SSCSTATE WASHDC 1197

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 1813

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, RP
SUBJ: MARCOS RESPONDS TO OPPOSITION DEMANDS

REF::MANILA 1747

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING CAUCUS OF NACIONALISTA PARTY LEADERS FEBRUARY 1 (REPORTED SEPTTEL), PRESIDENT MARCOS COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON EACH OF LIBERAL PARTY'S TEN PRECONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN APRIL 2 ELECTION (REFTEL). MARCOS AGREED TO ONE DEMAND, REJECTED THREE (INCLUDING BLOC VOTING), AND ASSERTED THE OTHER SIX ARE ALREADY ASSURED BY LAW. MARCOS ADDED THAT HE WAS DELAYING SIGNING THE ELECTION CODE TO ALLOW FURTHER STUDY, BUT WOULD HAVE TO SIGN IT BEFORE FEBRUARY 7 IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR CANDIDATE REGISTRATION BEFORE FEBRUARY 14.

2. MEANWHILE, OPPOSITION LEADERS JERRY ROXAS AND JOVITO SALONGA MET SEPARATELY WITH REPORTERS FEBRUARY 1. ROXAS, ACCORDING TO BULLETIN TODAY, SAID LP IS READY TO FIELD CANDIDATES IN ALL REGIONS IF ITS DEMANDS ARE MET. HE ADDED THAT MARCOS SHOULD FORMALLY FIX A TENURE FOR THE IBP; OTHERWISE, IF THE IBP IS DISSOLVED IN A FEW MONTHS, "THIS WOULD BE A VERY EXPENSIVE POLITICAL EXERCISE." SALONGA TOLD DAILY EXPRESS THAT IF LP DEMANDS ARE MET,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 01813 021002Z

HE WILL HEAD THE METRO-MANILA SLATE, AQUINO WILL HEAD THE CENTRAL LUZON SLATE AND ROXAS WILL HEAD THE WESTERN VISAYAS TICKET. HE SAID AQUINO AGREES "100 PERCENT" WITH LP'S LIST OF DEMANDS. TIMES JOURNAL QUOTES SALONGA AS SAYING THAT IF LP DEMANDS ARE MET HALF-WAY, STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH HE HEADS WILL MEET TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO.
END SUMMARY.

3. FOLLOWING ARE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC LP DEMANDS, AS REPORTED IN MANILA DAILIES:

A) REMOVE BLOC VOTING: MARCOS INSISTED BLOC VOTING WAS NECESSARY SO AS NOT TO DISENFRANCHISE THE ONE-HALF OF POPULATION LIVING IN SMALL PROVINCES. HOWEVER, BECAUSE HE HAS RECEIVED MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MANNER OF VOTING, HE IS DEFERRING SIGNING THE ELECTION CODE. HE ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE HEADED BY SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA TO STUDY "THE MANNER OF VOTING" AND REPORT TO HIM WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE JUSTICE SECRETARY ABAD SANTOS, DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT PELAEZ AND FORMER SENATOR TOLENTINO. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MARCOS' NEGATIVE REPLY INDICATES HE WILL RETAIN BLOC VOTING, FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE IMPLIES HE MIGHT ALLOW SOME MODIFICATIONS.)

B) RESTORE FREEDOMS: MARCOS SAID HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE OPPOSITION VIEW THAT THESE FREEDOMS DON'T EXIST NOW. HE SAID SOME DEMONSTRATIONS, EVEN THOSE ORGANIZED BY SUBVERSIVES, HAVE BEEN PERMITTED, AND THAT POLICE RESTRICTIONS ON DEMONSTRATIONS ARE PRIMARILY FOR TRAFFIC REGULATION.

C) CAMPAIGN PERIOD: MARCOS SAID HE HAD ALREADY EXTENDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANILA 01813 021002Z

THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOR 30 DAYS TO 45, WHICH IS "QUITE SUFFICIENT." MOREOVER, HE SAID, HE ANNOUNCED THE ELECTION DATE ON JANUARY 15 PRECISELY TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR PREPARATION.

D) ABOLISH "INSTANT" VOTER REGISTRATION: MARCOS REPORTEDLY SAID, "IF NECESSARY, NO PROBLEM. SURE." HE ADDED THAT SPECIAL DAYS FOR REGISTRATION COULD BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE APRIL 2.

E) NON-PARTISAN SUPERVISION OF POLLING PLACES: MARCOS SAID NON-PARTISANSHIP IS ASSURED BY LAW, BUT HE REFUSED TO MEET LP DEMAND THAT ALL THREE MEMBERS OF POLLING PLACE CITIZENS COMMITTEE BE SCHOOL TEACHERS. HE SAID ONE MEMBER IS A BARANGAY OFFICIAL IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE VOTERS.

F) CONFINE TROOPS TO BARRACKS: MARCOS SAID THIS IS ALREADY DONE. IF NECESSARY, HE ADDED, HE MAY SET UP POLLS AT THE BARRACKS; OTHERWISE TROOPS WILL BE LET OUT ONLY TO VOTE.

G) PROVIDE ALL PARTIES WITH ADVANCE PRECINCT RETURNS: MARCOS SAID THIS IS PROVIDED IN THE ELECTION CODE.

H) ALLOW OPPOSITION PARTICIPATION IN PRINTING OF BALLOTS:
MARCOS SAID THIS IS BEING DONE. (COMMENT: SALONGA
TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 31 THAT COMELEC IS ALREADY PRINTING
BALLOTS IN SMALL PRINT SHOPS, WHICH WILL BE USED FOR
STUFFING.)

I) REQUIRE OFFICIALS WHO ARE CANDIDATES TO RESIGN: MARCOS
SAID THAT CABINET MEMBERS SHOULD NOT RESIGN THEIR POSITIONS
UNDER THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. HE SAID LOCAL OFFICIALS
WHO CHOOSE TO RUN ARE REQUIRED TO GO ON LEAVE WHEN THEY
ANNOUNCE THEIR CANDIDACY.

J) STOP PUBLIC WORKS SPENDING AND DOLE-OUTS DURING CAMPAIGN:
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MANILA 01813 021002Z

MARCOS SAID THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT THE OPPOSITION WAS
WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE SPENDING OF PUBLIC FUNDS. DURING
THE CURRENT DRY SEASON, HE SAID, CONSTRUCTION WORK MUST
CONTINUE. MOREOVER, CONSTRUCTION MUST CONTINUE BECAUSE
FOREIGN LOANS FOR SOME PROJECTS MUST BE PAID. HE CALLED
THIS DEMAND AN EXAMPLE OF "OLD SOCIETY THINKING."
NEWSOM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, PARTY LEADERS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA01813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780051-1113
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802101/aaaadhqj.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d5cfcddc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 1747
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3431198
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCOS RESPONDS TO OPPOSITION DEMANDS
TAGS: PINT, RP, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d5cfcddc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014